

No. 6398	號八十八百三千六第	日二念月四年寅戊緒光	HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 1878.	四拜禮	號三十二月五英	港香	PRICE \$24 PER MONTH.
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NOTICE.

THE Undergrad, having become LESSEE of the "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" and the BUSINESS connected therewith, will conduct the same on his own account from this date.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Daily Press Office,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1878.

NOTICE.

S. WATSON AND CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
PERFUMERS,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUNSHINE,
AND
AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED,
PASSENGER GEAR SUPPLIED.

Notice.—To avoid delay in the attention of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON AND CO.,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to "The Manager," and all correspondence should be sent to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
AN ENGLISHMAN.—The subject is not worth extending, and our space is limited.

DEATH.
At Shanghai, suddenly, on the 18th inst., Edward Corbin, Esq., Consul-General of Customs and Statistical Secretary, Inspector-General, Shanghai, aged 30 years.

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, MAY 23RD, 1878.

Through the representations of Her Majesty's Consul at Foochow, the Authorities of Fokien have issued a stringent proclamation against the adulteration of tea.

The proclamation, which is issued by the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, begins in the following terms:—"Whereas information has reached me that lately certain counterfeiting villains, knowing the difficulty of detecting the admixture of young willow leaves, dried mild prepared, with genuine tea, are, in their greed of gain, only awaiting the arrival of the new season's tea to make this adulteration."

The Lieutenant-Governor then goes on to threaten severe punishment to offenders and offers a reward of \$100 for information leading to the apprehension of persons found guilty of mixing spurious rubbish with the genuine tea.

The British Consul has also issued the Chinese Authorities to post a similar proclamation in the tea producing districts. The thanks of the public are due to the Consul for this interesting attempt to put a stop to a most injurious practice, one, too, which has for some years past been steadily growing.

The adulteration of tea is a simple matter, and not very easily detected by a more cursory examination. It is monstrous, however, that it should go on, and we trust that the action of the Authorities in Fokien will have the effect of checking the practice now so much complained of. It is in their own interests to put down the abuse, for by its spread the tea of Fokien would be brought into disrepute, and with the increasing opposition in India, this cannot be desired by the Chinese tea growers. In all probability, too, tea cultivation will in a few years be commenced in Australia. The Chinese may rest assured that if they persist in adulterating their tea with stale used-up leaves, willow leaves, and an undue quantity of dust they will materially and rapidly weaken their hold on the British market. Considering the enormous export of this commodity to Great Britain and her Colonies, it is well worth the while of Chinese tea growers to devote all their energies to the improvement of their growths, to the more careful firing of the leaf, and to the improved preparation of the article generally, in order to place it as far beyond the reach of competition as possible. It is short-sighted policy indeed to sacrifice the prospects of the future for present gain, but all the world over this is done, and hence we cannot wonder so much that the Chinese tea producer should be anxious to turn a dishonest penny occasionally. He has the example set to him by the Lancashire piece-goods manufacturers, who adulterate their cottons to give them a spurious weight and thickness. Willow leaves mixed with tea may be a more injurious cheat than China clay mixed in calico, but there is not a pin to choose between the defrauders. It would be a good thing for the reputation of British piece-goods, if the British Government would insist upon their being stamped "Pure," "Adulterated," "Sized," and so on, in order that purchasers might know what they are buying. Of course if people like calico loaded with clay and other noxious ingredients let them have it by all means, but it is both dishonest and impolitic to sell such goods as pure cottons. It is well known in its effects on consumers to sell tea containing an admixture of spurious leaves. We hope the efforts of the native Authorities to put down the practice will be crowned with success.

Tag best friends of Japan and those who most admire the beauty of Japanese art are frequently faint to lament the inclination shown by the Japanese to imitate foreign wares. Japanese ceramic ware, Japanese bronzes, and Japanese lacquer ware, are celebrated and admitted the world over, alike for their exquisite taste, beauty of design, excellence of workmanship, and for general finish. No greater mistake could be made by Japanese artists than to endeavour to supersede native by foreign designs. One great charm of Japanese designs is their originality and distinctiveness. It would be a thousand pities if they were induced to give up their own designs and become lost copies of the articles of other nations.

TERRIFIC THUNDERSTORM IN HONGKONG.

A thunderstorm of most unusual violence, accompanied by heavy rain and wind, swept over the colony during the early hours of yesterday morning. The lightning was most vivid and the flashes followed each other in such rapid succession that the breeze appeared almost motionless. The loud peals of thunder also followed each other with equal rapidity. No direct damage appears to have been done by the lightning, but the heavy wash of water has washed great havoc along the streets and roofs, ploughing them up in many places and filling the gutters and drains with mud and debris. In one street to a depth of three feet. Destruction was worked among the canvas lying in Barrington Canal, which were broken from their moorings, and many were carried or dashed against the bridge, by which some of the people of board lost their lives. The batteries in course of erection have suffered considerably by the washing away of the earth works, and one of the guns at North Point battery slipped down the embankment. Some idea of the immense volume of water that rushed down the hillside making its way to the harbour may be gathered from the fact that no less than nine and a half inches of rain fell during the continuance of the storm. Several residents mention having felt a shock about two o'clock which did not appear to be vibration consequent on the thunder, but to be caused by wind. The German bark *Carmelita* and *Ma. Captain* Kotel, also reports that while lying at anchor under the Lamma Islands for shelter, at about two o'clock yesterday morning, he felt the vessel give a slight lurch, and then everything went trembled, as though an earthquake had taken place about the locality.

Rain began to fall on Tuesday about one o'clock and continued with occasional flashes of lightning and distant thunder, the atmosphere being very oppressive. About one o'clock yesterday morning, a few minutes after the storm broke out again with great violence, the heavy thunder directly overhead causing great vibration in most of the houses, while the vivid lightning played unintermittently.

The storm continued with unabated violence until about a quarter to three, when there was a brief interval of comparative tranquillity after which it again burst forth and continued until a quarter past three, when it began to die away. Uninterrupted torrents of rain were falling all this time, and the noise caused by the thunder, wind, and rain together was almost deafening.

On the higher levels no material damage was done to property, with the exception of Mr. Coughtrie's house, Balaclava, the foundations of which at the north east corner have been washed away by the bursting of a two foot drain which appears to run under the house. The existence of the drain was unknown, and it is not marked on any of the drain plans. The giving way of the foundations caused a subsidence of the walls, in which there are now wide cracks. The corner of the house will require rebuilding, and the damage may be roughly estimated at \$2,000. The house and garden are covered with sand and stones carried down by the water, and in many places leading up to a depth of several feet. The walls in the garden have been much cut up and in the eastern garden several tons of earth fell from the slope above the canal bed. In Messrs. Street the road was ploughed up along the side of the road to a depth of several feet, and the portion of Seymour-road in front of Seymour Road, which the whole of the street had been moved and large quantities of earth washed away from the sides. There is also a deep fissure at the junction of Castle and Cause roads.

The roads at East Point are all in a very bad state. Francis-street, Nuh-lan-lan, King-king-street, and Wanchai-road being especially bad. The back wall of No. 61, Wanchai-road, fell in during the storm, and a woman living in the house received severe injuries about the head. St. Francis' Church was flooded during the night to the depth of four feet. The altar and organ were almost destroyed, the seats broken, tapestry saturated, and considerable damage was done to the edifice generally. The school-room, it is thought, will have to be rebuilt. The convent adjoining was also flooded, the floors of the water rushing down from the hills bursting in the doors. In front of the Wanchai Market the drains and water and gas pipes are exposed by the washing away of the road, and a gas lamp was thrown down. There have been several landslides along the embankment of the road leading to the Kowloon, and a tree has been washed down. The Kowloon was partly flooded yesterday morning and the Mohammedan Cemetery has suffered a little. A considerable portion of the western side of the Barrington Canal bridge was destroyed, and also the balustrade and part of the side of the bridge. A good many of the sampans which were lying in the canal were smashed up in consequence of the enormous flood, caused by the rush of water from the surrounding hills, and it is feared many lives have been lost, although as yet only nine cases have been reported to the police. People were dragging yesterday both inside and outside the canal for lost property. The Shan-kan-road is cut up in many places, and Kennedy-road is also considerably damaged.

In the centre of the town the damage done is comparatively trifling. The matting has been washed off the dressing rooms at the swimming bath, and the gymnasium was flooded. The mat covering at Paddar's Wharf has also been carried away.

Westward the streets in general present a very dirty appearance, and in many places lying six inches deep, while in others the roads are greatly torn up. Centre-street has suffered the most severely and is completely out of use for its whole length, and at the upper part, across the whole width of the road, the soil has been washed away to a depth of fifteen feet. The water pipes have been broken and a six foot sewer has been completely destroyed. Stanton-street and Pond-lane are each cut up to a depth of eight feet, and a drain has burst low also. The soil in East street has been washed away to a depth of ten feet. The Shek-Tong Tui Market, West Point, was flooded. The pier in the Nuh-lan in front of it at two o'clock yesterday morning was within ten inches of the top of the wall. At that time the water was rushing down the hills and along the roads surrounding the Nuh-lan, washing away the earth from the foundations of the neighbouring houses. Two or three Europeans who were present thought the houses at one time to be in a most precarious state. At last the wall on one side of the Nuh-lan gave way and the noise made by the rushing water carrying down the stones with it was almost as loud as the thunder. This pier was almost in ruin, and the whole of the pier was washed away about ten feet deep, and the material of the surrounding houses have to be saved, and the pier has been washed away to a depth of ten feet. The pier is now in ruins, and the houses are in a most precarious state. The pier was almost in ruin, and the whole of the pier was washed away about ten feet deep, and the material of the surrounding houses have to be saved, and the pier has been washed away to a depth of ten feet. The pier is now in ruins, and the houses are in a most precarious state.

At the Victoria Street, a complaint was laid before the Magistrate that the actor who played the part of the father in a farcical comedy, killed the stage daughter rather than marry her. The actor, however, explained that the lady being neither frightened nor hurt, the Magistrate refused to take any action against the actor. The actor, however, explained that the lady being neither frightened nor hurt, the Magistrate refused to take any action against the actor.

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The storm continued with unabated violence until about a quarter to three, when there was a brief interval of comparative tranquillity after which it again burst forth and continued until a quarter past three, when it began to die away. Uninterrupted torrents of rain were falling all this time, and the noise caused by the thunder, wind, and rain together was almost deafening.

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Westward the streets in general present a very dirty appearance, and in many places lying six inches deep, while in others the roads are greatly torn up. Centre-street has suffered the most severely and is completely out of use for its whole length, and at the upper part, across the whole width of the road, the soil has been washed away to a depth of fifteen feet. The water pipes have been broken and a six foot sewer has been completely destroyed. Stanton-street and Pond-lane are each cut up to a depth of eight feet, and a drain has burst low also. The soil in East street has been washed away to a depth of ten feet. The Shek-Tong Tui Market, West Point, was flooded. The pier in the Nuh-lan in front of it at two o'clock yesterday morning was within ten inches of the top of the wall. At that time the water was rushing down the hills and along the roads surrounding the Nuh-lan, washing away the earth from the foundations of the neighbouring houses. Two or three Europeans who were present thought the houses at one time to be in a most precarious state. At last the wall on one side of the Nuh-lan gave way and the noise made by the rushing water carrying down the stones with it was almost as loud as the thunder. This pier was almost in ruin, and the whole of the pier was washed away about ten feet deep, and the material of the surrounding houses have to be saved, and the pier has been washed away to a depth of ten feet. The pier is now in ruins, and the houses are in a most precarious state.

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